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TIPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports

OF THE



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.

CHIEF

SANITARY & MEAT INSPECTOR.

C. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I., C.M.I.

WITH AN

APPENDIX BY THE SURVEYOR,

W. H. JUKES, M.E.

FOR THE YEAR, 1925.

TIPTON.

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FOR THE YEAR, 1925.

Public Offices,
Owen Street,
Tipton.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Tipton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health has directed that this report shall refer not only to the health and Sanitary condition of the district for the year 1925, but shall also include a survey of the conditions and progress made during the past five years. A schedule has been issued prescribing the form of the report, and this schedule has been followed as closely as possible.

PART 1.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	2161
Population (Census 1921)	34131
„ (Estimated 1925)	36900
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1921)	7383
„ „ „ „ (Estimated 1925)	7850
Number of Families or separate occupiers	not known
Rateable value	£127,508
Sum represented by a penny rate	£410

Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

Tipton lies in the heart of the "Black Country," the physical features of which are well known. It is essentially an industrial district. At one time a large quantity of coal was raised, and in some places ironstone, but for some years the mining industry has been dead. Numerous furnaces, factories, and engineering works have been set up.

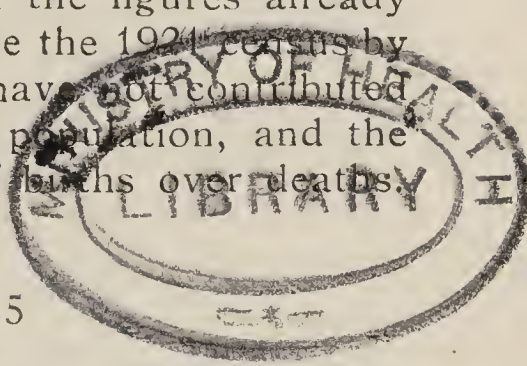
The area is intersected with canals which are used to a very considerable extent.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The employment of the people is indicated by the character of the industries mentioned above. In recent years, a considerable measure of unemployment has been experienced, although relatively it has been less than in many of the neighbouring areas. No evidence has been noted that any of the occupations or environmental conditions have been prejudicial to health, with the exception, of course, of the usual housing shortage.

VITAL STATISTICS.

It will have been observed from the figures already given that the population has increased since the 1921 census by over 2000. Immigration and emigration have not contributed materially towards any alteration in the population, and the difference is accounted for by the excess of births over deaths. The yearly increase is here shown :-



Increase in 1921	625
„ „ 1922	440
„ „ 1923	439
„ „ 1924	500
„ „ 1925	381

BIRTH RATE.

The number of births in 1925 was 913, which represents a rate of 24.7 per thousand of the population. The table given here may be of interest :-

BIRTH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

Year.	Tipton.	Staffordshire.	England & Wales.
1921	31.7	26.1	22.4
1922	27.3	23.0	20.6
1923	25.3	21.5	19.7
1924	24.7	21.6	18.8
1925	24.7	not yet available.	18.3

During the past year, there were 13 illegitimate children born.

DEATHS.

After allowing for transferable deaths, the number for 1925 was 278 males and 254 females, a total of 532. This gives a crude death-rate of 14.4 per 1000 of population, and a corrected rate after standardising for age and sex distribution of 14.3.

The following table gives a survey of the period under review :-

DEATH-RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.

Year.	Tipton.	Staffordshire.	England & Wales.
1921	13.8	11.9	12.1
1922	14.9	12.3	12.9
1923	12.9	11.2	11.6
1924	11.2	11.4	12.2
1925	14.4	not yet available	12.2

The principal causes of death are here summarised :-

Enteric Fever	1	Bronchitis	41
Measles	16	Pneumonia	73
Scarlet Fever	1	Other respiratory diseases	6
Whooping-cough	8	Ulcer of Stomach etc.	5
Diphtheria	2	Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 yrs)	20
Influenza	15	Appendicitis	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	Cirrhosis of Liver	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	Nephritis	7
Non-pulmonary		Childbirth	2
Tuberculosis	14	Congenital debility etc,	50
Cancer	38	Suicide	3
Rheumatic Fever	2	Other violent deaths	15
Diabetes	3	Other defined diseases	112
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	27	Heart Disease	28
Arterio-sclerosis	5	Cause ill-defined	1
			Total 532

An idea of the relative importance of the principal fatal diseases may be gained from the above figures, and the following table shows the number of deaths from certain of these diseases during the four previous years of the period under review :-

	1921	1922	1923	1924
Measles	21	4	29	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	26	20	24
Cancer	33	34	27	29
Heart Disease	23	38	28	18
Bronchitis	24	34	32	29
Pneumonia	78	106	65	70
Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years)	31	8	16	7
Congenital debility	50	41	33	34
Influenza	14	25	11	24

INFANT MORTALITY.

This is specially dealt with in Part VII.

SPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

It should be noted that in the period under review Pneumonia has been responsible for more deaths than any other two causes added together. So many people consider tuberculosis, cancer and heart disease to be the principal "killing" diseases that the heavy loss of life from pneumonia is apt to be overlooked. It is certain that this high death-rate is largely contributed to by overcrowding, because under present conditions many pneumonia patients cannot have the separate bedroom which is so necessary if they are to have a fair chance of recovery.

PART 2.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area. Hospitals.

- (a) TUBERCULOSIS. Treatment is provided by the Staffordshire and Dudley Joint Committee.

1. Sanatorium for children. The Limes, Himley.
2. Groundslow Sanatorium for females, Tittensor
3. Prestwood Sanatorium, Kingswinford.
4. Edge View, Kinver, adult males,

The Committee also arranges for admission of patients to certain Orthopædic Hospitals and to Yarnfield Hospital, near Stone.

- (b) MATERNITY. "Holbeche" Nursing Home, which is situated within the district, co-operates with the Council as regards necessitous cases.
- (c) CHILDREN. There is no children's Hospital within the district. A number of cases are treated at the Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
- (d) FEVER. The Council owns the Fever Hospital, Tipton, which is used for the treatment of scarlet fever and enteric cases. There are 30 beds. Diphtheria cases are treated at West Bromwich Isolation Hospital by special arrangement.
- (e) SMALL-POX. Provision for this disease is made by the South Staffs. Joint Small-Pox Hospital Board which has a Hospital at Moxley, near Bilston. Tipton is one of the constituent districts of the Board.
- (f) OTHER HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.
 1. Dudley Guest Hospital.
 2. Dudley Dispensary.
 3. Poor Law Infirmary, Sedgley.
 4. General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.
 5. Queen's Hospital, Bath Row, Birmingham.

6. Ear & Throat Hospital, Edmund St., Birmingham.
7. Skin & Lock Hospital, John Bright St., Birmingham.
8. Eye Hospital, Church Street, Birmingham.
9. Women's Hospital, Upper Priory, Birmingham.

Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

There is none within the district, all such cases being dealt with in the Guardians' Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES. One horse ambulance.
- (b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS CASES. One motor and one horse ambulance. Small-Pox cases would be removed by an ambulance from Wolverhampton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

- (a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. Bedford House, Horseley Road. Wednesday at 2 p.m. Thursday at 2 p.m.
- (b) DAY NURSERIES. None.
- (c) SCHOOL CLINIC. Medical Officer's Clinics, Tues. & Wed., at 2 p.m.
 Ophthalmic Clinic : Alternate Fridays.
 Dental Clinic : Mon., and Fri., 2 p.m. Wed. 10 a.m.
 Minor Ailment Clinic : Daily 4-30 p.m.
- (d) TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES. Provided by the Joint Committee at Parson Street, Dudley and Russell St., Wednesbury.

- (e) VENEREAL DISEASES. Treatment provided by the County Council at the Guest Hospital.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (also School M. O.)

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D., D.P.H.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR. C. H. CLIFTON, C.S.I., C.M.I.

This Officer is also Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts, and Inspector of Petroleum and Carbide Stores.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR. J. ADAMS, Capt.

HEALTH VISITORS.

MISS L. M. PENGELLY (three years general training and C.M.B.) Also acts as Tuberculosis Visitor.

MISS E. HARVEY (three years general training and C.M.B.) Half time. Also acts as School Nurse (half-time).

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. The others are full-time except where otherwise stated. Exchequer or County Grants are received towards the salaries of all officers with the exception of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

FOR GENERAL NURSING.

The services of the nurses from the Nurses' Home in Church Lane are available. No provision has been made for the nursing of infectious diseases at home.

The County Council contributes towards the expenses of the Nurses' Home as far as training is concerned, but no contribution is made by the Local Authority.

MIDWIVES.

No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. Fifteen midwives practice within the area, and it is of interest to note that, last year, over 94 per cent of the births were notified by midwives.

Adoptive Acts

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890	17th January, 1893.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	
Parts I, II, III, V.	17th January. 1893.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	
Secs. 15 to 38. 43 to 68, 93 and 95	10th March, 1909.
Secs. 39, 40, 41, 42	10th January, 1911.
Public Health Act 1925.	
Parts II, III, IV, V.	1st April, 1926.

Bye-Laws

1. Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, removal of House Refuse and cleaning of Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools.	29th January, 1901.
2. Nuisances-Snow, Filth, Ashes, etc. and keeping of Animals.	do. do.
3. Common Lodging-Houses	do. do.
4. Slaughterhouses	do. do.
5. Mortuary	do. do.
6. Offensive Trades	do. do.
7. New Streets and Buildings	9th November, 1925.
8. Employment of Children	30th November, 1920:

PART 3.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. supply the water for this district. The sources from which it is collected are various, but it is mostly underground water from the red sandstone. It has no plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is constant, but statistics cannot be given which would show the proportion of houses supplied directly or by standpipes. No contamination was suspected during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

These are supervised by the County Council. A few years ago, pollution of a tributary of the Tame was complained of by discharge of trade waste, but special tanks were installed to deal with it, and the County Council are satisfied with the improvement thus produced.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is dealt with in the Appendix by the Surveyor.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

A tremendous improvement has been effected in this direction during the past few years. The following table shows the position at the end of each of the years mentioned.

Year	No of Privies and privy middens.	No. of W.C's.	Conversions during year.
1921	2456	1800	168
1922	2323	1933	133
1923	1680	2586	642
1924	1050	3249	663
1925	466	3984	584

The Council has set itself the task of securing the conversion of every privy where practicable and the above table shows how energetically that policy has been carried out.

SCAVENGING.

This is efficiently carried out by the Sanitary Department. Disposal is effected on tips. Movable dustbins are being substituted for ashpits where the latter are defective; a condition which is almost universal. The following table shows the number of bins in use at the end of each year.

1921	838
1922	999
1923	1107
1924	2426
1925	3287

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

This is dealt with in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No formal action has been taken during the year, but negotiations have taken place with one firm who claim that the nature of their trade makes it impossible to obviate this nuisance. Action has been deferred pending the result of the promised Smoke Abatement Bill.

SCHOOLS.

Water supply is from the South Staffordshire Waterworks. The sanitary condition is fair. As regards exclusions, the Joint Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion (1925) has been followed.

PART 4.

Housing.

It would be difficult to estimate with any accuracy the extent of the housing shortage in Tipton, but it is very evident that a considerable shortage exists. The need for an increased provision of housing accommodation is based on three things :-

1. THE EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS. It has been shown that this has averaged over 400 per annum, and therefore the natural increase of population may be said to require roughly 100 new houses per year. It is not anticipated that this increase of population will change markedly in the near future although it may eventually be somewhat diminished by the falling birth-rate.
2. THE NECESSITY FOR REPLACING CERTAIN EXISTING HOUSES. A considerable amount of housing property in Tipton is very old and may be said to have reached the end of its life. Under the circumstances, owners are very reluctant to spend money on repairing property which they realize will be the subject of Closing Orders at the first opportunity.

A considerable number of houses have suffered through subsidence of the foundations, while the majority of the older houses show no signs of having an effective damp-proof course. Statistics as to the exact number which should be closed are not available, as it has not been found possible to secure alternative accommodation.

3. THE NECESSITY FOR DEALING WITH EXISTING CASES OF OVERCROWDING. To determine the exact amount of this, a house-to-house survey would be necessary, but it is known to be considerable. I should imagine that, at the very lowest estimate, at least 250 houses are needed from this point of view, and the number may be considerably greater.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING YEAR.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b). | 101 |
| (b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts, | |
| (1) By the Local Authority | 86 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | 11 |

1. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

INSPECTIONS.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 694 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District), Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | 529 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | None |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (inclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | 487 |

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered
 fit in consequence of informal action by the Local
 Authority or their Officers. 25

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.
 - A. Proceedings under section 3 of Housing Act, 1925.
 1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which
 notices were served requiring repairs. 347
 2. No of dwelling-houses rendered fit after
 service of formal notices (a) By Owners 251
 (b) By Local Authority
 in default of
 owners. None
 3. No of dwelling-houses in respect of which
 Closing Orders became operative in pursuance
 of declarations by owners of intention to
 close None
 - B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
 which notices were served requiring defects
 to be remedied. 140
 2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects
 were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners 96
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of
 Owners. None
 - C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of Housing
 Act, 1925.
 1. Number of representations made with a view
 to the making of Closing Orders None
 2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
 which Closing Orders were made. None

3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit. None
4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. None
5. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. None

PART 5

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) MILK SUPPLY. This is adequate and satisfactory. A large and increasing amount of the milk sold is sterilised and bottled. No action has been found necessary in connection with Tuberculous milk. No licenses have been applied for to sell milk under the Special Designations Order.

(b) MEAT. The administration of the new Meat Regulations as to inspection etc, is dealt with in the Report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector. There are no public slaughterhouses in the area. As regards private slaughter-houses, the following are the particulars:—

	1920	January 1925	December 1925
Registered	18	13	13
Licensed	2	2	2
	—	—	—
Total	20	15	15

(c) OTHER FOODS Dealt with in Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(d) FOOD POISONING. No case has occurred during the year.

(e) & (f) SALE OF FOOD & DRUGS ACTS. MILK & CREAM REGULATIONS. These are administered by the County Council.

PART 6

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

1, NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(a) SMALL POX. No case of small-pox occurred within the district during the past year, One case was notified in 1922. but this has been the only case during the past five years.

(b) SCARLET FEVER.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack rate per 1000 population	No of Deaths	Case Mortality per cent.
1921	194	5.6	3	1.5
1922	108	3.0	2	1.9
1923	88	2.4	1	1.1
1924	43	1.2	1	2.3
1925	63	1.7	1	1.6

It will be observed that there was a remarkably steady decrease in the number of cases during the first four years of the period under review, but last year showed an upward tendency. The cases have been, generally, of a very mild type. The following table shows the numbers treated in Hospital:—

SCARLET FEVER CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL

Year	Admissions	Deaths
1921	97	—
1922	55	—
1923	53	—
1924	21	1
1925	28	—

Out of a total of 495 cases, 254 were isolated in Hospital, representing an isolation percentage of 51

The "Dick" test has not been used in the district.

(c) ENTERIC FEVER.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack rate per 1000 population	No. of Deaths	Case Mortality per cent.
1921	4	.11	1	25
1922	9	.25	2	22
1923	16	.45	3	19
1924	7	.19	2	29
1925	3	.08	1	33

A reduction in the number of enteric cases may confidently be expected in the future as a result of the increased adoption of the water carriage system. The case mortality of enteric fever is so high that any expenditure which will tend to abolish this disease is amply justified. Two cases were treated in Hospital during the year.

(d) DIPHTHERIA.

Year	No. of Cases	Attack rate per 1000 population	No. of Deaths	Case Mortality per cent
1921	9	.25	2	22
1922	12	.34	3	25
1923	7	.19	2	29
1924	10	.27	—	—
1925	18	.49	2	11

This is another disease with a high case mortality, but the number of cases in the district has not been excessive. Compared with enteric fever, very little can be expected from improved sanitation.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners, a supply being kept for that purpose at the Public Offices and the Isolation Hospital.

So far, the "Schick" test has not been used. One case was treated in Hospital during the year.

(e) PUERPERAL FEVER. There was no case of this disease during the past year.

(f) PNEUMONIA.

Year	No. of Cases notified.	No. of Deaths	Death rate per 1000 population.
1921	—	78	2.23
1922	22	106	2.98
1923	23	65	1.83
1924	17	70	1.89
1925	40	73	1.98

The high mortality from this disease is referred to in Part 1.

(g) OTHER DISEASES GENERALLY NOTIFIABLE. There were notified 21 cases of erysipelas and 8 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum. Two cases of encephalitis lethargica were notified, both of them ending fatally.

(h) There are no diseases locally notifiable which are not generally notifiable.

(i) TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary).

Year	No. of Cases.	Attack-rate per 1000 populat'n	No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 populat'n
1921	28	.8	19	.54
1922	30	.9	26	.73
1923	22	.6	20	.56
1924	29	.8	24	.65
1925	46	1.2	31	.84

(j) TUBERCULOSIS (NON-PULMONARY)

Year	No. of Cases	Attack rate per 1000 populat'n	No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1000 population
1921	7	.2	6	.17
1922	11	.3	6	.17
1923	3	.1	6	.17
1924	7	.2	5	.13
1925	8	.2	14	.38

There was a marked increase in the number of cases notified during the past year, and although part of this may represent a real increase in the incidence of the disease, some of it is due to improved notification. The notification of non-pulmonary cases is rather imperfectly carried out and this is possibly due to the fact that the patient may have been under treatment for a considerable time before a diagnosis of tuberculosis is arrived at, by which time it is forgotten that notification was not made originally.

During the first four years of the period the death-rate from Tuberculosis was not excessive, but last year's figures are disquieting and it is sincerely to be hoped that it represents a purely temporary fluctuation,

2. NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The prevalence of these diseases cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy—the only precise information about them being derived from the death returns.

(a) INFLUENZA.

Year	No. of Deaths.	Death-rate per 1000
1921	14	.41
1922	25	.72
1923	11	.31
1924	24	.66
1925	15	.41

The fluctuations in the death rate which have occurred from year to year are not very significant and at no time during the period has a strikingly fatal type of the disease been rampant.

(b) WHOOPING COUGH.

Year.	No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1000
1921	2	.05
1922	22	.62
1923	—	—
1924	—	—
1925	8	.22

The above table is a good illustration of what frequently happens with infectious disease in children. The year 1922 was remarkable for the heavy toll taken by whooping cough, and presumably the great majority of susceptible children were infected during that year. As a result, during 1923 and 1924, most of the child population was immune through a previous attack, but the infants born since 1922 are now susceptible and the death rate from whooping cough has gone up again.

(c) MEASLES.

Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1000
1921	21	.60
1922	4	.11
1923	29	.82
1924	12	.32
1925	16	.44

It is a common experience that every alternate year is a Measles year, as the above table shows. It is a matter for thankfulness that 1925 has not been so bad as 1923 or 1921, but there is little doubt that a considerable proportion of the 16 deaths last year could have been prevented.

(d) DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS. (under 2 years of age).

Year	No. of Deaths.	Death rate per 1000 births.
1921	31	28.0
1922	8	8.2
1923	16	17.8
1924	7	7.6
1925	20	21.9

Few places escaped a high mortality from this cause during the hot, dry summer of 1921, but the years 1923 and 1925 scarcely come in the same category. Although the disease is usually referred to as "summer diarrhoea," the mortality last year was not noticeable until September.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Laboratory, Lichfield, and the very complete facilities afforded have been appreciated and utilised to a considerable extent. The Medical Practitioner receives the result direct from the Laboratory, the Medical Officer of Health receiving a duplicate.

Isolation of Scarlet Fever cases is carried out at the Council's Fever Hospital, and enteric fever cases are received there. Diphtheria cases are received in the West Bromwich Isolation Hospital by special arrangement with that authority,

Disinfection of houses is chiefly by sulphur fumigation. There is no cleansing station for disinfestation of persons infected with vermin.

No vaccinations were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health during the year under the Public Health (Small-Pox) Prevention Regulations, 1917.

So far, there has been no need to enforce the provisions of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925.

Bacteriological Investigations.

During the year, 73 specimens of sputum were examined at the County Laboratory for diphtheria patients, of which 17 were positive. 52 swabs were examined for Diphtheria, 11 being positive.

PART 7.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

- (a) Inspection of Midwives. This is carried out by the County Council which is the Local Supervising Authority.
- (b) Work of Health Visitors. During the year 941 children under one year of age were visited, a total of 1,889 visits being paid. In addition, 2,119 visits were paid to children between the ages of 1 and 5.
- (c) Consultation and treatment centres. This work is carried on at Bedford House, which is also the headquarters of the School Medical service. The provision of this accommodation has been one of the greatest advances during the period under review. A 'Welcome' is held at the clinic on Wednesday afternoons, but the babies are not seen that day by the Medical Officer as a general rule. He is however in the building and can be consulted if specially desired. The clinic for consultations by the Medical Officer is held on Thursday afternoons. During the year the average weekly attendance at the Wednesday clinic was 36 and at the Thursday clinic 15.
- (d) Hospital In-patient treatment. This is not directly provided by the local authority, but arrangements have been made with "Holbeche" Nursing Home for the payment by the Council of fees in respect of necessitous women who are admitted to the Home for confinements.
- (e) Maternal Mortality. The year 1925 has been noteworthy for its low maternal mortality. Two deaths occurred and in neither case was puerperal sepsis the cause. During the four preceding years of this period, six deaths occurred from puerperal sepsis and nine from other causes connected with pregnancy or labour—an average of 3.75 deaths per annum.

(f) Thirty still births were notified during the year. The conditions existing in these cases were as follows:-

- 12 Macerated foetus
- 4 Monsters
- 2 Accidental haemorrhage
- 2 Breech presentations
- 2 Instrumental deliveries
- 4 Prolonged labour
- 4 No apparent cause

(g) Infant Mortality, This was regrettably high during the year. There were registered 900 legitimate births and 13 illegitimate. Under one year, 116 legitimate children and 3 illegitimate children died, giving a rate of 130 per 1,000. The excessive mortality was largely due to pneumonia and infantile diarrhoea, and indicates the need for better home conditions, increased education in elementary hygiene and more nursing facilities.

(h) Unmarried mothers illegitimate children, etc. The Health Visitors are not Infant Protection Visitors in this district.

(i) Supply of Milk. Dried milk is supplied at cost price to mothers attending the welfare centre. Where the family income is low, it is supplied either free or at a reduced rate, the quantity supplied in these cases being limited to a 1lb. packet or tin each week with very rare exceptions. Virol and Ovaltine are also supplied on the recommendation of the Medical Officer.

(j) Orthopædic treatment. There is no organised scheme for dealing with crippling defects, but children requiring treatment go, as a rule, to the Orthopædic Hospital in Birmingham. Cases seen at the Welfare Centre are invariably advised to attend there. The Hospital then applies to the Council for a contribution towards the cost of in-patient treatment or appliances and each case is considered on its merits. As a rule this method has worked well and there has been little delay in obtaining treatment,

- (k) Work of voluntary societies. The local branch of the United Services Fund has co-operated in securing treatment for children of Ex-Service men. There has been little occasion to call on the services of the N.S.P.C.C, Very valuable work has been done by the Nursing Association, which works in conjunction with the "Holbeche" Nursing Home. Miss Golds, the Matron, has very kindly supplied me with the following particulars of their work. It is very gratifying to observe the important place given in their activities to ante-natal work.

DISTRICT WORK.

No. of Midwifery and maternity cases	577
No. of still-births	20
Discharging eyes	30
	(of these 3 were sent to Hospital)
Maternal deaths	None
No. of Ante-Natal visits at Church Lane	355
" " homes	120
No. of cases of albuminuria	8

"HOLBECHE"

No. of Midwifery and maternity cases admitted to home	160
No. of still-births	9
No of deaths within ten days after birth	2
No. of ante-natal attendances	189

There were 3 cases of contracted pelvis, which were sent to Hospital for Caesarean section.

Other points of note were:—

1 case Pemphigus Neonatorum. Baby died within 5 days.

1 case Peritonitis on 11th day of Puerperium. Operation successful,

1 case Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Child of the previous case. No damage to sight.

1 case Perforation of after-coming head.

Number of recessitous cases treated in home 22

- (l) Co-ordination with School Medical Service. This could scarcely be improved upon. The same committee has charge of both departments ; the same building used for headquarters so that records are easily available ; the same Medical Officer ; one nurse working for both departments—all of these help to secure continuity in the work from birth to school leaving age.
- (m) Certain infectious diseases. No provision is made by the Authority for the nursing of Measles, Whooping Cough, or Epidemic Diarrhœa, or for the use of beds in convalescent homes.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified	8
Treated at home	4
Treated in Hospital	4
Vision unimpaired	8
Vision impaired	—
Total Blindness	—
Deaths	—

A. S. UNDERHILL, M.D , D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

Inspector's Office,
Owen Street
Tipton,
Jany. 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Tipton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my report for the year 1925.

SCAVENGING

Night Soil has been removed from 2139 privies belonging to 3908 houses and works. 1186 Tanks of night soil have been removed. Ashes have been removed from 8746 ashpits belonging to 21,941 houses and 12742 loads of house refuse have been removed from ashpits and dust bins combined. Dust bins (3287) are emptied every week.

The parish is in a clean condition and the motor transport service is working quite satisfactorily.

WATERCLOSETS

13 Waterclosets have been put in during the year by the owners themselves and 571 waterclosets have been put in by the contractor under the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907.

The number of waterclosets left for Conversion on a line with the sewer is in the region of 300.

The number of waterclosets already in use is 3833 (not including Factories and Workshops).

Dust bins put in during the year amount to 861 making the total number in use at the end of the year 3287. 226 dust bins were put in by the Council failing compliance by the respective owners.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

During the year the number of houses inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and myself was 529 of this number 182 houses were found to be in good condition. The number of houses inspected by myself was 165. The arrears for the year 1924 was 20 and these have received attention and 95 have been left over for attention this year (1926) from the inspected houses of 1925.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year summons were taken out against the owners or agents for defect in connection with the following properties.

Court 27 Dudley Port
 38 to 42, Hopkins Street
 9 to 14, Lewis Street
 27 to 30, Conygree Road
 17 to 20, High Street Princes End
 241 to 244, Toll End Road
 30 to 33, Coppice Street
 7. Holland Street
 37, Walker Street
 84, Bloomfield Road
 337, Dudley Port
 House 11 Tividale Road (2 counts)
 10. Leabrook Square
 44, Dudley Road
 1 and 2 in Court 9 Dudley Port
 52, 53 and 54 Upper Church Lane

30, Spring Street
 76, Bridge Road
 12, Regent Street
 40a, 40b, 41 and 41a Sheepwash Lane
 72, Queens Road
 18, Hurst Lane
 2 to 7, Factory Road
 60 and 61, Wood Street
 28, Sheepwash Lane

NUISANCES.

During the year 170 nuisances were reported to the Public Health Committee and of these 116 have been abated leaving 54 for attention.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following came under my examination,

Tubercular pigs	29
Inflammatory pigs	3
Jaundiced pig	1
Swine Erysipelas	1
Decomposed pigs	2
1 whole Cow (Tuberculosis)	1
144lbs of beef (Tuberculosis)	
Damaged portions of five sheep which were run over by Motor Lorry	
Peaches Tin	1
Milk Tins	10
Pineapple	2
Salmon	7
Tomatoes	3
Pears	3
Sardines	3

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS 1924.

The above came into force on the 1st day of April 1925

During the past eight months 234 pigs on private premises have been examined by me and the following is a summary of the condemnations which have been given by me after examinations,

On private premises and in slaughterhouses

6 whole carcasses (Tuberculosis)

4 fore-quarters do.

20 Sets of Lungs do.

25 livers (Cirrhosis)

And other organs not enumerated.

One prosecution has taken place for exposing pigs' feet on a stall without complying with the Regulations and the Court imposed a fine of £1 and Costs

WATERCLOSETS PUT IN.

1920	32
1921	168
1922	133
1923	642
1924	663
1925	584
	2222

300 under notice, and in some cases work in progress. When these are completed, the whole of the Parish will be on the water carriage system, with the exception of 46 privies which are at the present time, not within the prescribed distance of a sewer.

DUST BINS IN USE FOR HOUSE REFUSE.

At the end of 1920, there were in use 714 Dustbins.

Supplied during 1921	122
„ „ 1922	163
„ „ 1923	108
„ „ 1924	1319
„ „ 1925	861
At present in use	3287

PREMISES INSPECTED.

	G'd Condit'n.	Defective.	Made Fit.	Under Repair	
1920	361	197	164	66	98
1921	388	84	304	198	106
1922	487	190	297	156	141
1923	384	125	259	111	148
1924	378	236	142	122	20
1925	529	182	347	252	95
	2527	1014	1513	905	608

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN.

1920	5
1921	9
1922	7
1923	2
1924	9
1925	26
	58

There are in the district

Grocers Shops	148
Small Shopkeepers	51
Meat Shops	28
Slaughterhouses	15
Six slaughtermen kill on Sundays	
The number of Pig Keepers	78

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

During the year only one complaint was received from H.M. Inspector and this had reference to a defect in a factory now closed.

The sanitary conditions of the Factories and Workshops are on the whole satisfactory.

The number of Workshops on the Register	84
, Bakehouses	22
Factories	80

Canal Boats Report.

During the year 496 Canal Boats have been inspected and 44 were found to be defective and not carrying out the Acts and Regulations

Dilapidations	21
Overcrowding	4
Paintwork dirty	12
Insufficient water vessels	3
Certificate absent	4
	44

The arrears for the year (1924) 9 have been remedied and the number outstanding for the year 1925 is 11.

No legal proceedings have been taken and no case of infectious disease met with.

MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT 1922

A very considerable number of shopkeepers sell sterilized milk in bottles and as long as the milk is sold as received it is preferable to selling raw milk exposed to dust and flies.

The number of shops who retail Milk	158
(Bottled milk)	109
Retail purveyors (inside)	15
(Outside)	36
of Cowkeepers	15

Notices

The number of Informal Notices served during the year	159
The number of Statutory Notices	164

Slaughterhouses.

The Slaughterhouses in the district are well kept and visited very often owing to the P.H. (Meat) Regulations, 1924

The number of slaughterhouses in use	15
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Disinfection of Houses.

The number of rooms disinfected during the year	94
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CHARLES HENRY CLIFTON,

Chief Sanitary and
Meat Inspector.

APPENDIX BY W. H. JUKES.

—:—

Surveyor's Offices,
Owen Street,
Tipton.
January 23rd, 1926.

A. S. Underhill, Esq.

Dear Sir,

As requested by you, I have pleasure in sending you a few particulars of the work carried out in the several departments under my supervision during the past year.

HOUSING.

The erection of houses by private enterprise has not been up to the standard I expected, and up to the present only 15 new houses have been erected since the 1st January, 1925. The Council have completed the erection of 32 houses in Sheepwash Lane, 54 at Summerhill from plans and specifications prepared by me, and under my superintendence, which are all occupied and we are now advertising for the erection of 22 on Summerhill No. 3 site and 18 on a site in Furnace Parade purchased from the Exors. of S. Rowley, which will be commenced within the next month. Negotiations are also taking place for the purchase of the Cotterills Farm Estate of about 65 acres, which will be developed part for houses and part as a Public Park or Recreation Ground for the districts of Toll End and Ocker Hill. Plans are also being prepared for 100 new houses on each side of the new "Locarno Road" between Upper Church Lane and Alexandra Road, the "lay out" for which has been already approved by the Ministry of Health, and negotiations are taking place with the Earl of Dudley's Agent for about $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres of land on the West Side of Park Lane West, where it has recently been widened which will find accommodation for about 16 houses. A small Committee has been appointed to inspect and select suitable sites in the district for erection of houses, Every effort is being made to acquire land between Upper Church

Lane and Toll End Road so as to enable us to extend the "Locarno Road" and thus complete a good and useful road which should ultimately open up a large and necessary building area just ripe for development.

The following is the statement as to new houses erected and occupied during the year.

BY THE COUNCIL—	Sheepwash Lane Site	32
	Summerhill No. 1 Site	28
	2 Site	26
BY PRIVATE OWNERS—	11 of which claim Subsidy	15

SEWERING.

During the past year we have cleansed the Main Sewer from Eagle Lane to Dudley Port Station for the first time since it was constructed nearly 40 years ago, and this is now working very well. The Sewage Outfall works are in good order and we are now constructing a new "sludge area" as recommended by the Inspector to River Tame Pollution Committee so as to enable us to get our sludge properly dried so as to avoid the possibility of a nuisance to surrounding properties when taken to the tip, and it is hoped that when the new beds are in working order the dry sludge will become a marketable commodity. The whole of the sprinklers on the filter beds have been repaired and are now in proper working order.

STORM WATER DRAINS

Most of these are very old and in many cases no records exist as to their direction and depth &c. which make it very awkward and expensive when a stoppage or block occurs. I am of opinion that many of these will have to be re-constructed in the very near future.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS

The work of converting the old privies into Water Closets is being proceeded with at a fairly good pace and I am hoping that during the next 6 months, I shall be able to report that this work is completed.

BATHS.

I have prepared Schemes for Open Air Swimming Bath on the Park and also Public Baths on land adjoining the Central Library but no decision has yet been arrived at.

ROADS.

Only one new road (Locarno Road) has been made during the year excepting the roads and sewers on the Summerhill Housing Site but nearly all the "Main Roads" have received attention and we are now engaged on this work at Great Bridge, Sedgley Road (E. & W.) and Park Lane W. Only a few short lengths now remain for "re-surfacing" and which will be undertaken in our Year's programme for 1926-27. I think, in closing, that I ought to refer to the magnificent Recreation Ground on land purchased from Lord Dudley by Messrs Palethorpe's and laid out by them on about 18 acres of land abutting on Conygree Road and Sedgley Road East. Provision has been made for Football, Cricket, Lawn Tennis Bowling, and Open Air Bath and plans have been approved for the erection of an up-to-date Pavilion with Caretaker's Quarters and all necessary Sanitary Conveniences and is, undoubtedly, a great acquisition and improvement to the old derelict pit mounds and ash tips by which this area was originally covered.

(Sgd.) W. H. JUKES,

Engineer and Surveyor.